

Activities for Michigan Green Schools Program

From Act 146 of the Public Acts of 2006
Effective May 22, 2006



In order to earn the State of Michigan “Green School” designation, a school must participate in 10 of the following activities:

1. The school recycles paper.
2. The school reuses its magazines and newspapers for other projects and recycles the scraps.
3. The school has adopted an endangered species animal from 1 of several organizations and posted a picture of the animal in a main traffic area.
4. The school media center updates its print and nonprint ecological materials regularly.
5. An energy savings program has been instituted at the school.
6. Students at the school participate in a planned program of energy savings, including dusting coils on cafeteria refrigerators, placing film on windows, setting hot water heaters 1 degree lower, seeing how plants and trees strategically placed can save energy for the school, and checking proper inflation in bus tires and other school vehicles once a month.
7. The school has hosted a visit by an ecological spokesperson, a representative of an environmental organization, a local government official, an endangered animal species show, or a similar presentation.
8. The school has a birdhouse habitat project.
9. The school has established a natural Michigan garden project with native plants.
10. The school has solar power presentations or experiments, such as a solar cookout.

11. Classes do energy audits of their classrooms and make improvements, such as placing film on windows, caulking windows, or using kits to make windows more energy efficient.
12. The school has a printer cartridge recycling program through which the school earns money by selling the cartridges to 1 or more companies that buy cartridges from schools.
13. The school recycles batteries and has designated a representative to return them to an appropriate recycling program.
14. The school recycles cellular telephones and receives money for the telephones from recycling companies that work with schools.
15. The school observes Earth Day in some way in April.
16. Art classes at the school have a poster contest to support ecology concerns and a school wide display in conjunction with Earth Day activities.
17. The school has science class projects in which students do several home energy improvements, such as turning down hot water heaters, installing home window insulation kits, cleaning coils on home refrigerators, and installing draft guards for doors.
18. The school has an ecology club, whose activities include projects such as helping senior citizens make their homes more energy efficient, putting in new furnace filters, caulking windows, cleaning refrigerator coils in homes, and setting water heaters 1 degree lower.
19. The school's classes visit internet sites where clicking saves rainforest habitat and teachers document the students' efforts.
20. The school sets a goal of 5% less energy usage in the school and works with local power utilities to see progress toward the goal.